



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



GOVERNOR ACTIVATES SDNG MEMBERS TO HELP WITH PUERTO RICO HURRICANE RECOVERY

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has activated four members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion at the request of Puerto Rico government authorities to help with recovery operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

The soldiers from the Watertown-based unit will provide water distribution capabilities to those in need. They will deploy to Puerto Rico with two Load Handling System vehicles and trailers equipped with four Compatible Water Tank Racks, or "Hippos." The Hippos have the capability to receive, store and distribute up to 2,000 gallons of potable water per system.

"When disaster strikes, South Dakota lends a hand," Gov. Daugaard said. "Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Puerto Rico and with the soldiers of Company A who will be on the ground helping those in need."

Gov. Daugaard said the request for South Dakota National Guard support came through an Emergency Management Assistance Compact that exists between all 50 states and three U.S. territories. As a U.S. territory, Puerto Rico will reimburse the State of South Dakota under the compact for the activation costs.

Company A is a distribution unit which can provide transportation for the movement of cargo, water and fuel. The four soldiers are leaving for Puerto Rico this morning and could be deployed for up to 45 days.

This is the first request South Dakota has received through the emergency compact to help with hurricane recovery efforts.



Inside this issue:

Aberdeen Healthy Aging Resource Fair	2
Inman Receives "Millie of the Year Award"	2
SDPB Client Appreciation Day	3
USS South Dakota Christening	3
SD Joining Forces	4
Dakota Conference	5
Upcoming Events	6

ABERDEEN HEALTHY AGING RESOURCE FAIR

The Brown County Veterans Service Office and the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs had a booth at the Aberdeen Area Healthy Aging Resource Fair lastweek.

Aaron Walberg and Kevin Swanson were on hand to visit with attendees on veteran's benefits, services, and programs.

The goal of the resource fair is to provide resource and service information to those in need in the Aberdeen catchment area.

Screenings, testing and flu shots were available.



INMAN RECOGNIZED BY HER PEERS

Laura Inman, Activities Coordinator at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home, was presented the Millie of the Year award from the South Dakota Health Care Association's (SDHCA) during their annual conference in September.

The Millie Award is bestowed to health care employees who go the "extra mile" in caring for their long-term care patients.

Inman was lauded for her exemplary activities program, which offers an average of seven activities daily on campus. She also supports three off campus trips each month. Her work brings joy and fulfillment to everyone it touches, and her passion for helping others is evident for all to see.



SDDVA ATTENDS SDPB CLIENT APPRECIATION

SDDVA's Erin Bultje attended South Dakota Public Broadcast's (SDPB) Client Appreciation Night in Sioux Falls this week.

Bultje had the opportunity to see highlights of some of SDPB's programs, meet the producers and staff, and hear the latest news from South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

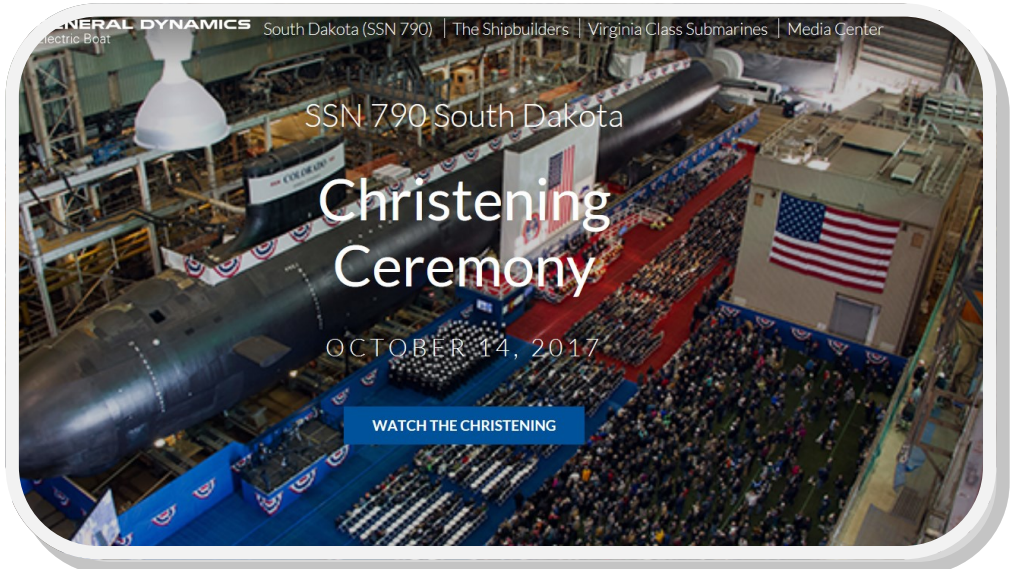
This event provided Bultje with a great opportunity to update the SDPB team on the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and South Dakota Joining Forces.



USS SOUTH DAKOTA CHRISTENING CEREMONY

The christening ceremony for the USS South Dakota submarine will be held Saturday, Oct. 14, at 10:00 am (ET). The ceremony will be held at General Dynamics Electric Boat Facility, 75 Eastern Point Rd., Groton, CT.

The event will be livestreamed at: www.ebchristenings.com.



SOUTH DAKOTA JOINING FORCES

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs has selected Erin Bultje to serve as the executive director of South Dakota Joining Forces (SDJF).

Bultje will provide program development, oversight and coordination for the Joining Forces Initiative. She will enhance the state's ability to meet the behavioral-health care needs of its service members, veterans and their families by increasing access to appropriate care, closing gaps, building the system's capacity, increasing interagency communication and building collaboration.

"Through past wars and conflicts, we have been building the footings that are part of our history," said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Military personnel, veterans and family members deserve an entity to help them locate the assistance they need. Erin Bultje will take these footings and build the foundation block that will communicate, solidify, and create a network of resources for our 276,000 members of this exclusive group. She has the expertise to give that large contingency a place to find resolution for information."

Bultje, an Army Veteran with five years of active duty service, served overseas as part of the 1st Armored Division out of Wiesbaden, Germany. After her tour of duty, she received her Associates of Arts degree in Radio/Television Broadcasting and then her Bachelors of Science in Business Management.

"Service in any branch of the military has both inherent risks and rewards," said Erin Bultje. "This Initiative will help our veterans, service members and their families navigate the maze of programs and services to get them through the right door at the right time. I look forward to continuing my journey to enhance the lives of our veterans."

Watch for the release of the new website: www.SDJF.sd.gov.

Bultje can be reached at erin.bultje@state.sd.us or 605.295.8180.



KOREA AND VIETNAM

25 YEARS OF WAR IN ASIA, 1950-1975

April 20-21, 2018

CALL FOR PAPERS & SESSIONS

Due: February 9, 2018

The 50th Annual Dakota Conference on the Northern Plains



Conference Theme: Military conflicts in Korea and Vietnam from 1950 to 1975 continue to impact the United States. Today, America and Vietnam enjoy a healthy trade relationship, and American tourists regularly visit what was once a war zone. Many Americans drive a car made in South Korea, but relations with North Korea remain hostile. The year 2018 marks the 65th year since the Korean War ended in stalemate and the 50th year since the Tet Offensive revealed the futility of the Vietnam War.

The 50th annual Dakota Conference seeks to examine how the twenty-five years of war in Asia, fought on the heels of World War II, continue to influence residents of the Northern Plains (the Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana). Veterans from these states are invited to consider presenting on their service, including the many Native Americans who served.

Papers about life in the Plains states during the years 1950 to 1975, as well as papers about Korea and Vietnam today, are welcome. Papers providing contextual knowledge of the conflicts in terms of U.S. history and foreign policy are also sought. Sessions or panels related to the

conference topic are encouraged. Papers on general topics related to the region are always welcome.

Submission Requirements: Email a one-page paper or session proposal with title, brief summary, and biographical sketch, along with full contact information, to dakotaconference@augie.edu or mail to "Dakota Conference," The Center for Western Studies, Augustana University, 2001 S Summit Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57197. Proposals (not finished papers) are due on **February 9, 2018**. Online submission forms are available on the CWS webpage.

Cost: Registration is \$45 and Meal Package is \$45 for entire conference (\$90 total). Meal Package covers Friday lunch and dinner and Saturday lunch. Saturday breakfast is free. After **April 13, 2018**, Registration and Meal Package will be \$50 each. Registration is free for full-time undergraduate students of any university and for Augustana faculty and staff, courtesy Mellon Fund Committee. For hotels offering the university's discount, visit www.augie.edu/lodging.

Autograph Party: The conference features an autograph party for authors of recent books about the Northern Plains on **Saturday, April 21**. Authors may apply for invitation by contacting CWS Executive Director Harry Thompson at harry.thompson@augie.edu by **February 9, 2018**.

Awards: Presenters may submit their papers for cash award consideration in academic, non-academic, student, and women's history categories.



The Dakota Conference on the Northern Plains is a humanities-based public affairs program of the Center for Western Studies that explores topics specific to the region in their historical and cultural contexts. The Center's Boe Forum on Public Affairs considers national and global issues of concern to the people of the Northern Plains. The CWS Public Affairs Series publishes books examining regional issues.

Improving the quality of social and cultural life in the Northern Plains ... achieving a better understanding of the region, its heritage, and its resources ... and stimulating interest in the solution to regional problems.



For further information, please contact: Kari Mahowald, Office Coordinator
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www.augie.edu/dakota-conference | www.facebook.com/CenterforWesternStudies

Upcoming Events

Oct 21—Derr Foundation Gala—Rushmore Plaza Civic Center—Rapid City—5:00 pm (MT)
Nov 4—Public Agent Orange Forum—Meade County Court House in Sturgis (2nd Floor Commissioners Chambers—1300 Sherman Street) 9:00 am and 1:00 pm (MT)
Nov 8—SD Veterans Council Meeting—PVA Headquarters in Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
Nov 9-13—VFW Disabled Veterans Hunt—Gettysburg
Nov 10—State Offices Closed
Nov 11—SDSU Military Appreciation Day—Kickoff at 2:00 pm (CT)
Nov 11—American Heroes Outdoors Veterans Day Banquet—Aberdeen Elks Lodge 1046—5:00 pm (CST)
Nov 11-12—Sea of Goodwill Equine Experience Retreat—Joy Ranch—Watertown
Dec 2-3—Yellow Ribbon for the 153rd EN—Mitchell
Dec 5—Governor's Budget Address—1:00 pm (CT)
Dec 12—SDDVA Mini Conference via Skype—10:00 am (CT)
December 25—State Offices Closed

2018

Jan 9—Governor's State of the State Address—1:00 pm (CT)
Jan 10—SD Veterans Commission Meeting—RedRossa in Pierre—9:00 am (CT)
Jan 10—SDDVA/Veterans Council Legislative Reception—RedRossa in Pierre—5:00—8:00 pm (CT)
Jan 18—SD American Legion Legislative Reception—Post 8—Pierre—5:00 pm (CT)
Jan 28-29—VFW Legislative Conference—Ft. Pierre AmericInn
Jan 29—VFW Legislative Reception—AmericInn—Ft. Pierre—6:00 pm—7:30 pm (CT)
Feb 16-18 American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma
Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish
Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls

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